

**Department of Human Services  
Office of Rehabilitation Services  
State Rehabilitation Council**

**June 5, 2006**

**4:15 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.**

**Executive Meeting Minutes**

**Present from State Rehabilitation Council: Raymond Carroll, Domenic Di Orio, Robin Dolan, Margaret Hoyer, Joseph Ferreira, David Sienko**

**Present from Agency: Stephen Brunero**

**Quest: Joe Doney**

**Call to Order: the Chair called the meeting to order at 4:15 P.M.**

**1. Agenda Items for the June 12, 2006 meeting**

**Old Business:**

- State Plan Update– Policy Committee Report/Comments – J. Ferreira**

**New Business**

- **Chair's Report – D. Sienko, S. Brunero**

## **Strategic Planning Session - Breakout groups**

**(Sub-committee functions to align work with the State Plan, Needs Assessment, and Standards & Indicators)**

- **Administrator's Report – R. Carroll**
- **Committee Reports**

**2. Strategic Planning: D. Sienko asked S. Brunero if he could take twenty (20) minutes to review the Standards and Indicators for the membership at the upcoming meeting. In doing this, the Council will be working on the second step of our strategic plan, being able to strategically measure our progress over time. We will use some of the meeting time in June, to break into subcommittees and work on formulating our priorities over the summer.**

**The other two factors of this equation, The State Plan and the Needs Assessment have already been distributed to the membership. However, N. Baker will send links to both documents before the June 12th meeting, as a follow-up.**

**3. Sub-committee review: the Chair will bring to the floor for discussion, creating an additional ad hoc committee on transportation.**

**4. Employment Committee: D. Di Orio reported to the executive leadership that S. Donovan is his choice for Vice-chair of the**

**Employment committee. He will inform the Council at the next meeting.**

**5. Make-up Orientation: the executive leadership discussed this and chose two dates to offer the four (4) members who missed the May orientation. N. Baker will contact the members and have a date to offer at the next meeting.**

**Dates – Tuesday, June 27, 2006 from 10 A.M. – 12 P.M. or Monday, June 19, 2006 from 10 A.M. – 12 P.M. Executive Leadership's first choice is the 27th.**

**6. Stare Plan and Policy: J. Ferreira informed the leadership that his committee had met and had additional comments to make, which C. Sansonetti was working on for the upcoming meeting. Twelve (12) policies were also reviewed at the last committee meeting.**

**S. Brunero reminded the leadership that ORS needs these comments in order to have time to review them and draft a response.**

**The Chair asked J. Ferreira to forward the committee's comments to the membership as soon as possible.**

**7. Rehabilitation Service Administration (RSA) Visit: R. Carroll explained to the leadership that the technical assistance and monitoring from the RSA is now coming out of a central location.**

**There are teams set up with each member taking different responsibilities. This visit is the first since the RSA's restructuring; it is a face-to-face opportunity that will yield dividends for the future while moving the process forward. We appreciate this visit and look forward to the constructive feedback that comes from it.**

**The RSA is adopting a model that the Department of Education has been using for years. This model will make our State Plan more of a focal point.**

### **Topics of Conversation with RSA**

**&#61607; The Comprehensive needs assessment – the SRC's steps to utilize this and the State Plan and Standards and Indicators to formulate and action plan, is moving forward in the right direction.**

**&#61607; Underserved Populations – is something the SRC needs to take a closer look at.**

**&#61607; Outcomes for meaningful Career Opportunities – the Standards and Indicators are an important tool for tracking this.**

**&#61607; Secondary Education and Special Education – Rhode Island is in the lead amongst its neighboring states.**

**8. SRC's Letter to Secretary Spellings: the Chair informed leadership that Secretary Spellings has responded to the Council's letter and copies will be brought to the meeting. He informed J. Doney about the SRC's letter. He also said that this tactic of letter writing**

would continue if the atmosphere in Washington continues to produce reductions of monies that erode the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Program.

## **9. ORS Director's Report – R. Carroll**

&#61607; State Budget – the budgets is close to being finalized and it appears there will be changes for State Employment. The theme of cutting back is resonating through the General Assembly.

&#61607; Personnel – two (2) retirements, R. Jobin a Rehabilitation Counselor, and R. Connor and Assistant Administrator, the ATAP Project Director, and the Transition Coordinator. With these two unexpected departures, ORS had twelve (12) vacancies and things are moving very slowly to fill them.

&#61607; State Plan – this is almost completed.

&#61607; Employer Honor Roll – will be held on October 27th. ORS has a committee taking nominations for awards. We would like to see as many members as possible attend from the SRC.

&#61607; Employee Wellness – the State is putting in for a silver award, nationally, for ORS. S. Brunero has been the champion for all of the Department of Human Services in Rhode Island. It has been very time consuming and is a grand concept with limited resources, however through it all, he has managed to do an outstanding job.

## **10. Adjournment: the meeting adjourned at 5:55 P.M.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Nancy L. Baker, Staff**

**State Rehabilitation Council**